



FIRE STILL IS RAGING

Devastating Conflagration Defies Efforts to Check It's Progress

Ferry Buildings Doomed to Destruction--Hurricane Drives Insatiable Flames Ever Onward--Buildings Blown Down. Streets Blocked With Debris

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20 (10 a. m.)—A wind of high velocity is blowing from the northwest over the fire-stricken districts tonight and the water front is threatened. General Caster has ordered out a squadron of men to endeavor to keep the flames back, which threaten the Union Ferry Depot, the only means of egress from the city. The water front emergency hospital is endangered by the wind, which is of such velocity that the brick and granite walls weakened by the earthquake, and subsequent fire, are falling into the streets. Market street, the principal avenue of escape from the city to the ferry may be blocked up thus shutting off practically the only means of escape.

Postal Abandons Its Office

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20 (10 p. m.)—Postal Telegraph Company has abandoned its temporary office in the Ferry building. The wind is blowing a gale and has shifted to the northwest and the flames now threaten the Ferry buildings.

Names of Killed

SAN JOSE, April 20.—Among those killed in San Jose were Mr. and Mrs. Bert Haley of Oakland; Mr. and Mrs. Kerrigan of Oakland; Thomas O'Toole of Gilroy; Mrs. Charles Costa, Mrs. Claude Everett, and Mrs. Warden and Fireman Farrar.

Oriental Mail Via Seattle

OAKLAND, April 20.—All mail for Manila and the Orient should be marked via Seattle hereafter.

Convicts Frightened

SAN QUENTIN, April 20.—San Quentin prison is intact. The walls are cracked and a few chimneys upset, but there is no further damage. During the first big shock the convicts set up walls which could be heard a mile. They acted like wild animals and tore at the bars like maniacs. Warden Edgar called all the guards and lined the walls and released the prisoners into the yard.

Germans Organize Relief

BREMSN, April 20.—The Weser Zeitung today called upon the citizens of Bremen to show their genuine sympathy with the people of San Francisco by organizing a relief fund from Germany. The paper adds that Germany is so closely connected with America by blood, intellectual and business relationships that naturally she is anxious to do something practical toward alleviating by ever so little the distress of the survivors of the disaster.

25,000 People Leave City

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—Twenty-five thousand persons left devastated San Francisco today, as many as could be carried by ferries, and probably

twice the number which left today, are seeking to depart tonight. All those who seek to cross the bay are given to understand that they may go to any point in the State free of charge, but that they may not return. This condition is imposed to relieve the food situation, and is cheerfully complied with by the fleeing people. They are going to every point around the bay even to Los Angeles, San Diego and other far off cities in the south. It is anywhere to get away, and anything but the sight of the skeleton walls and smoking ruins of the city.

Rush to the Ferry Station

From dawn two great lines have been streaming down Market street and along the shore from the Presidio, both toward the ferry station. All classes trudge along together carrying valuables of every description. Weary women dragging their tired and scared children, men staggering under their loads. Drivers of vehicles pushed their horses through the crowd. People were thrown down but paid no attention with only the one thought in their minds, to get to the ferries and get out of the city.

At 6 o'clock it was believed the fire had been checked at Van Ness avenue and Filbert streets. The buildings on the high slope between Van Ness and Polk, Union and Filbert streets are blazing fiercely, fanned by the high wind, but the blocks were so sparsely settled that the fire appeared to have but a slender chance of crossing Van Ness avenue at this point. Mayor Schmitz, who directed the operations at this point conferred with the military authorities and decided it was not necessary to dynamite the buildings on the west side of Van Ness. This would seem to assure the safety of what remains of the Western Addition. It is the only point of exposure to which this section of the city was subjected.

Hundreds Dead in San Jose

LOS ANGELES, April 20.—"San Jose is the worst looking wreck I ever saw," says Will A. White, sheriff of this county. "When I left there yesterday morning nineteen bodies had been recovered. I helped carry sixty corpses from the Agnews Asylum. It was believed then that fully one hundred more bodies were still in the ruins. There is not a brick or stone building over two stories in San Jose that is not levelled to the ground or must be torn down. The city is under martial law. The dead are all residents of the city."

Buried Alive Three Days

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—Eleven postal clerks were taken from the debris of the post office today. All were thought dead, but it was found that although they were buried in stone every one was alive. They have been for three days without food or water. All the mail was saved.

Collapsed Buildings Kill Hundreds

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—A three-story lodging house on Fifth and Minna streets has collapsed and over seventy-five bodies have been taken out. At least fifty other bodies are exposed. At least one hundred people were lost in the Cosmopolitan on Fourth street.

Many are dropping dead from heat and suffocation. Over 150 people are reported lost in the Brunswick Hotel at Seventh and Mission streets.

FIRE REVEALED TERRIBLE SECRETS

LOS ANGELES, April 20.—"Strange is the scene where San Francisco's Chinatown stood," says W. W. Everton, who reached Los Angeles today among the refugees. "The place is pitted with deep holes and seared with dark passageways from whose depths come smoke wreaths. White men never knew the depth of Chinatown's underground city. They often talked of subterranean runways. Many had gone beneath the street levels, two and three stories.

Chinatown Is Unmasked

But now Chinatown is unmasked, for the destroyed buildings were only a mask, and men have looked where the inner secrets lay. In places they can see passages one hundred feet deep. The fire swept the Mongolian section clean. It left no shred of painted wooden facade. It ate it down to the ground and the interior is bare. Joss houses and mission schools, grocers, stores, opium dens, gambling hells, and theatres, all went.

"From this place, I following the fire, saw hundreds of fright crazed yellow men flee. In their arms they bore opium pipes, money bags, silks, and children. Besides them ran baggy trousered women, and some hobbled painfully.

Caught Like Rats in Trap

"But these were the men and women of the surface. Far beneath the street level in those cellars and passageways were other lives. Women, who never saw the day from their darkened prisons and their blinking jailers were caught like rats in a huge trap. Their very bones were eaten by the flames. And now there remain only holes. They pit the hillside like a multitude of ground swallow nests. They show depths, which the police never knew. The secrets of these burrows will never be known for into them the hungry fire first sifted red coals then licked eagerly, in tongues of creeping flame, finally obliterating everything except the earth itself."

Was Just a Fake

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—There is no truth in the story that a riot occurred at the mint, in which many were killed.

Fire Heading Toward Immense Ferry Building Threatens to Close the Only Egress of Escape.

LIQUOR EMPTIED IN THE GUTTERS

Twenty Five Thousand People Left the City Yesterday.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—Plunged into absolute darkness tonight at 10 o'clock San Francisco has not seen the conclusion of the devastating work of the conflagration.

The fire that started at Nob Hill and worked its way to North Beach section, sweeping that section clean of buildings, was later veered around by a fierce wind that made its way southerly to the immense seawall sheds and grain warehouses. The flames are heading directly for the immense ferry building, the terminal point of all the central overland local trains of the Southern Pacific. The darkness, and a wind which at times amounted to a gale has added fresh terrors.

Will Swear In 1000 Policemen

It is decided to swear in immediately 1000 policemen armed with rifles, furnished by the federal government. It is reported tonight that three white men have been shot and killed in attempting to work their way into the ruins of the United States sub-treasury. Two Chinese were shot and killed on Market street for refusing to obey the orders of the soldiers.

Reports of babes being born in refugee camps were frequently received. Five women became mothers in Golden Gate Park. Tonight the main remaining fire is confined to the east of Van Ness avenue to the north of Union street, but was burning its way to the shore.

Late this afternoon the police broke open every saloon and corner grocery in the saved districts and poured all the malt and spirituous liquors into the gutters.

Fire Raging Over 50 Acres

At 7 p. m. the fire is raging over fifty acres of water front between Bay street and the end of Meggs' and Fisherman's wharf. To the eastward the flames extended to the seawall, but had not reached the piers which lie a quarter of a mile east. The buildings of the Central California Canneries Company together with thousands of cases of canned fruit were totally destroyed and also the Simmon and other lumber companies' yards. The fire had reached the tanks of the San Francisco Company, which had been pumped out, but ends of five grain sheds. Flame and smoke view the vessels off the shore, vainly attempting to check the fire.